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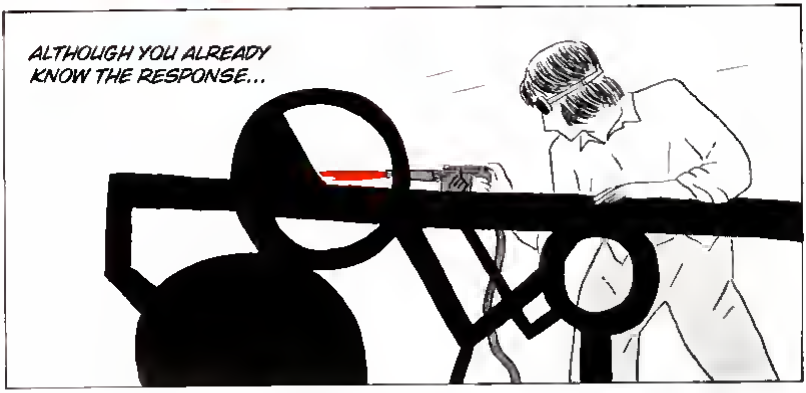
A Train at the End of Summer

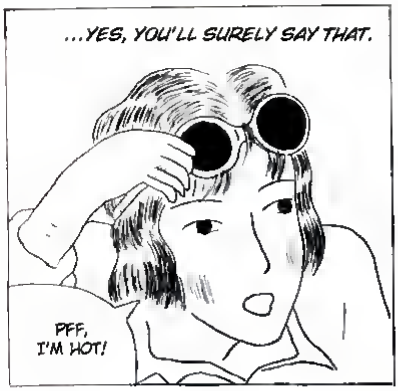
Anzai Mizumaru

YOU SHOULDN'T EAT BISCUITS DURING THE NIGHT! LOOK, YOUR DREAM IS CRUMBLING TO PIECES.

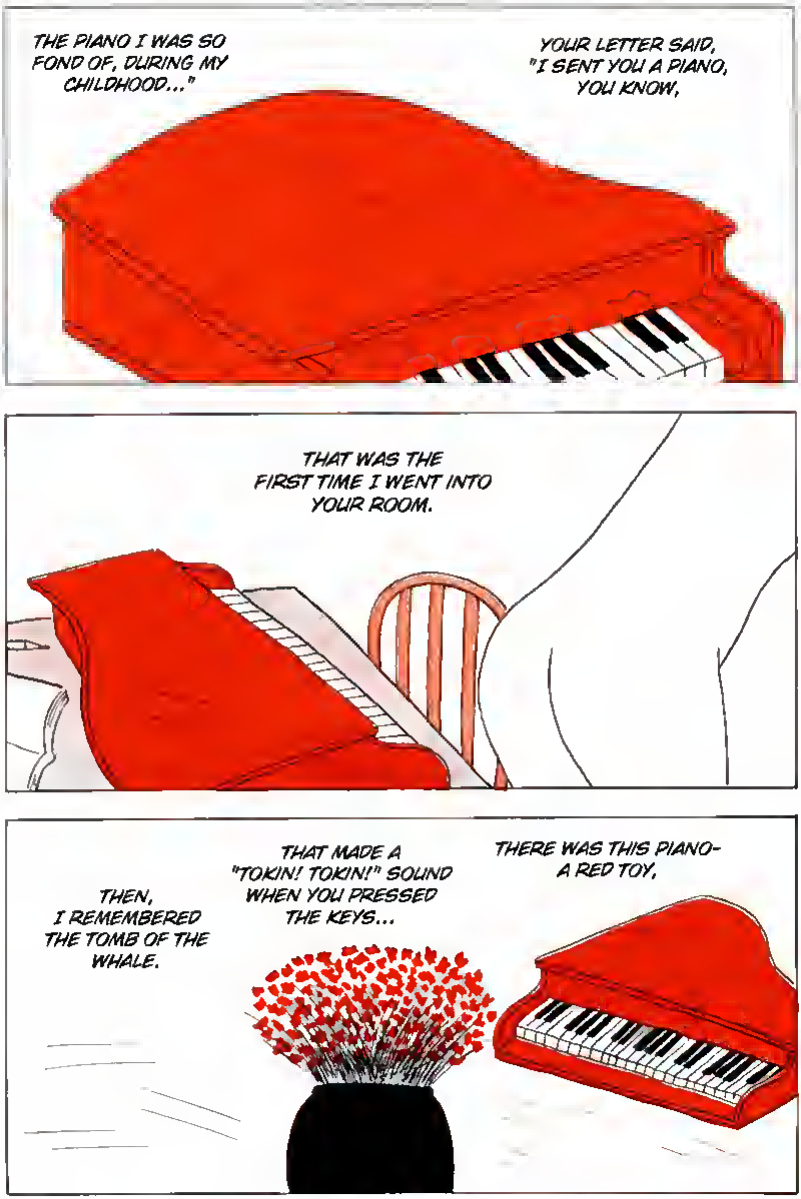
LOOK, THE TOMB OF THE WHALE IS VERY CLOSE!
ACROSS THIS SOMBER LAND-SCAPE WE WATCH THROUGH THE WINDOW,
ON AN EVENING LIKE THIS, LET'S TAKE A NIGHT TRAIN, AND GO FOR A TRIP.

YOUR LETTER ARRIVED FIVE DAYS LATE.
AND THEN, YOU WILL SURELY SAY THIS,


ALTHOUGH YOU ALREADY KNOW THE RESPONSE...

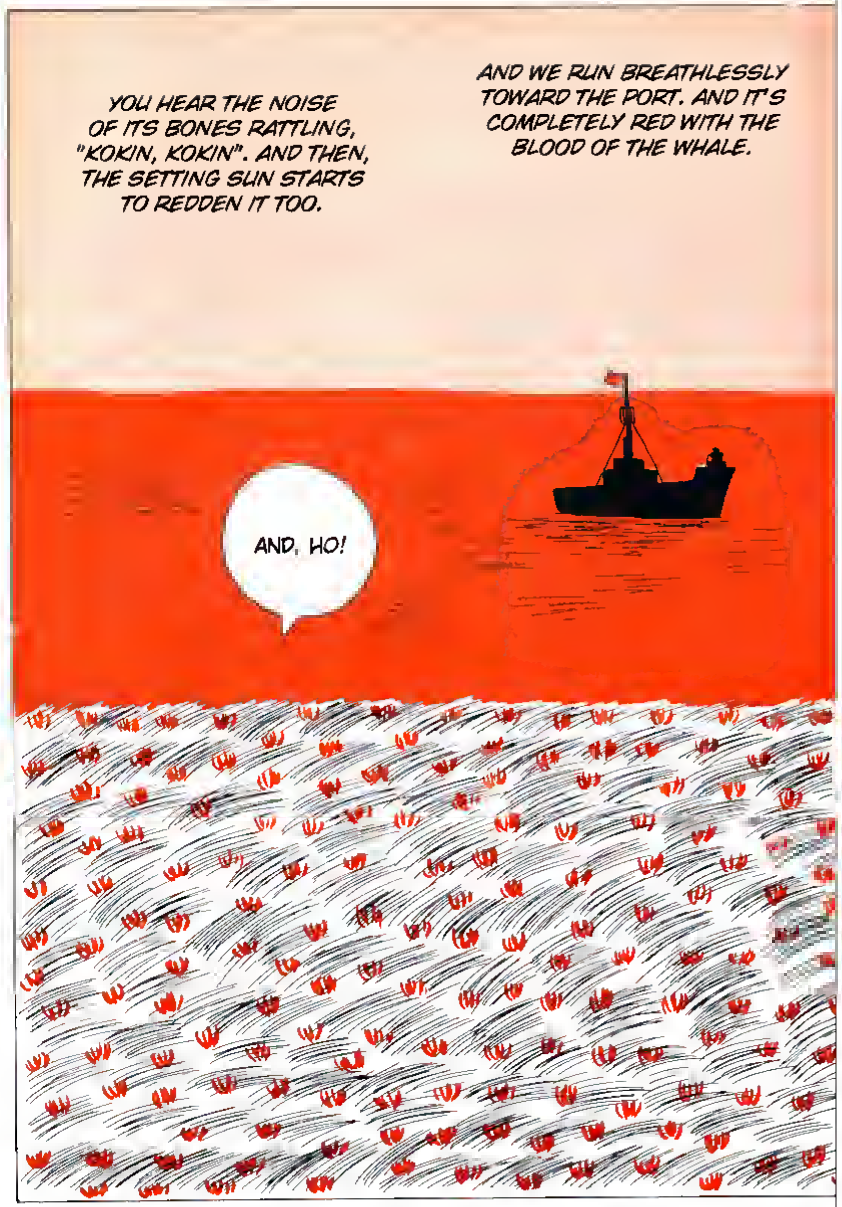

...YES, YOU'LL SURELY SAY THAT.
PFF, I'M HOT!

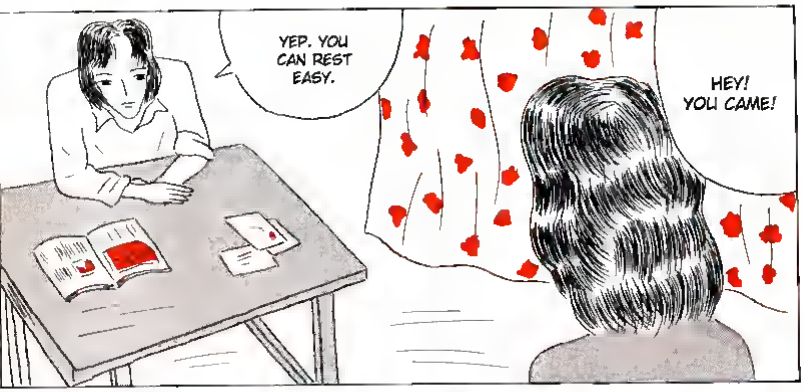
YOU DIDN'T RECEIVE A GIFT BY ANY CHANCE, DID YOU?

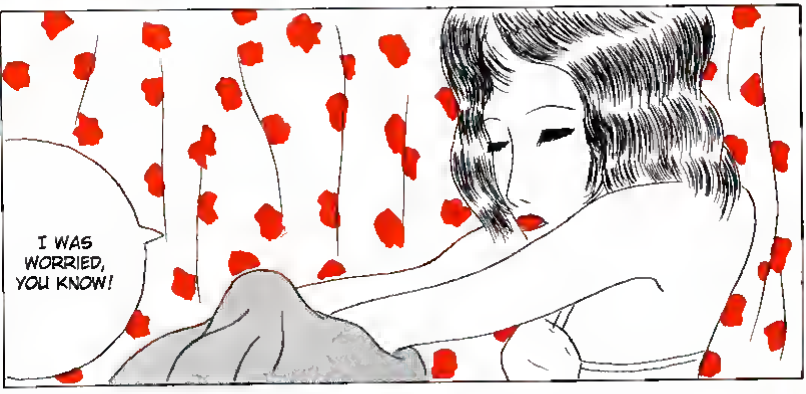

THE PIANO I WAS SO FOND OF, DURING MY CHILDHOOD..."
YOUR LETTER SAID, "I SENT YOU A PIANO, YOU KNOW,
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I WENT INTO YOUR ROOM.
THEN, I REMEMBERED THE TOMB OF THE WHALE.
THAT MADE A "TOKIN! TOKIN!" SOUND WHEN YOU PRESSED THE KEYS...
THERE WAS THIS PIANO- A RED TOY,

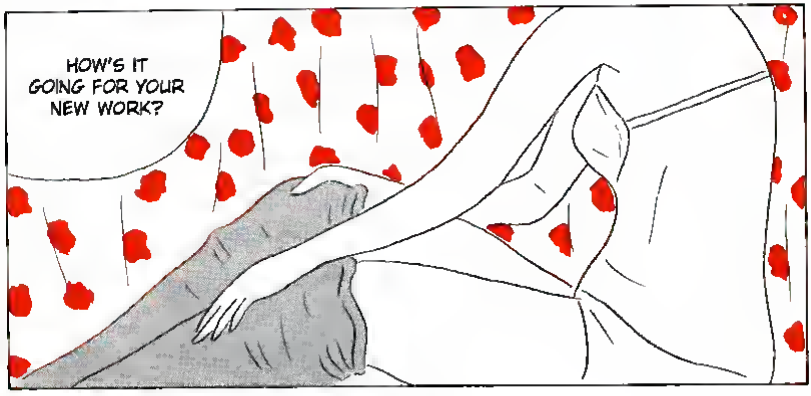
YOU KNOW, IF THE WHALER RETURNS TO THE PORT RAISING A RED BANNER, THAT MEANS HE HAD A CATCH!
WHEN THE SUMMER REACHED ITS END, THE BANK OF THE SEA WAS RED WITH THE HIGAN FLOWERS.
AND, HO!

NOTE: THE FLOWERS OF HIGAN ARE THE AMARYLLISES THAT BLOSSOM AT THE EQUINOX (HIGAN) OF AUTUMN, AND MARK THE END OF SUMMER


YOU HEAR THE NOISE OF ITS BONES RATTLING, "KOKIN, KOKIN". AND THEN, THE SETTING SUN STARTS TO REDDEN IT TOO.
AND WE RUN BREATHLESSLY TOWARD THE PORT. AND IT'S COMPLETELY RED WITH THE BLOOD OF THE WHALE.
AND, HO!

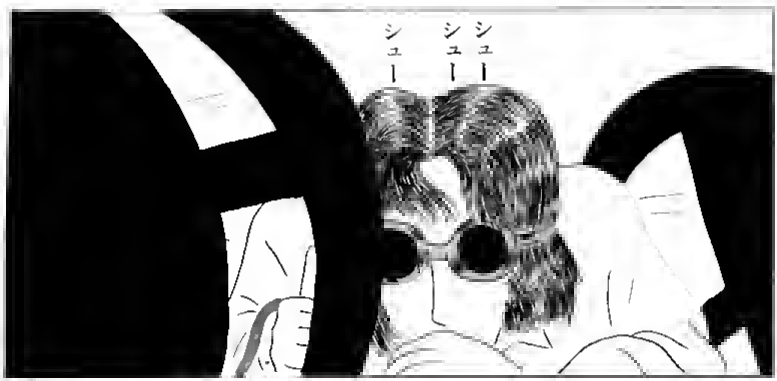

YEP. YOU CAN REST EASY.
HEY! YOU CAME!


I WAS WORRIED, YOU KNOW!


HOW'S IT GOING FOR YOUR NEW WORK?

YEAH.
YOU SEEM TIRED...
HM, THANKS.
I HOPE IT'LL WORK THIS TIME.
IT'S GOOD THE SUMMER'S GOING TO BE OVER SOON.

DID YOU LIKE THE PIANO?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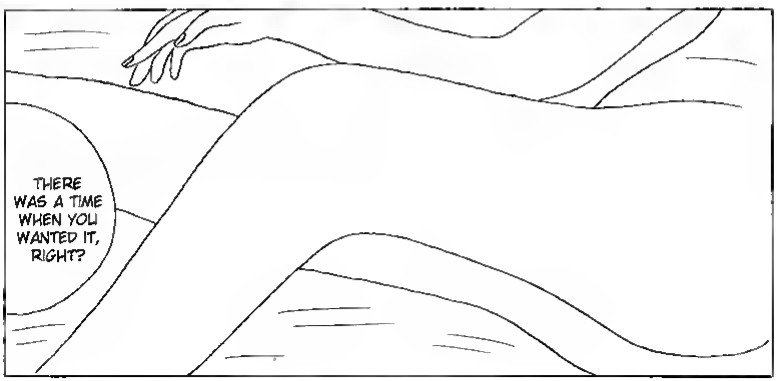
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN YOU WANTED IT, RIGHT?

"WHAT A STRANGE SOUND!"

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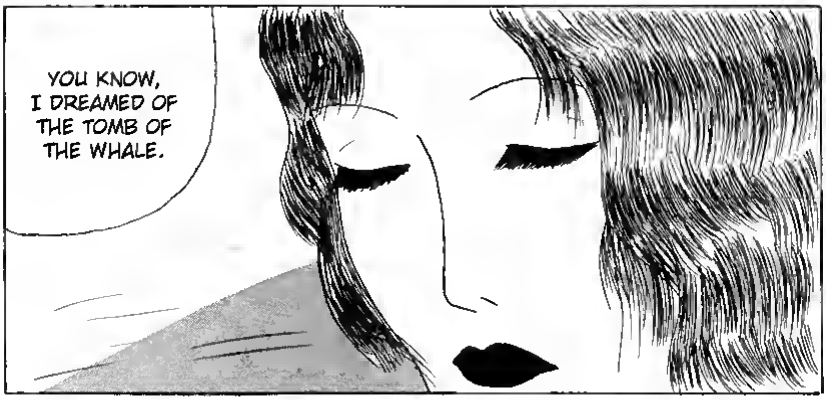
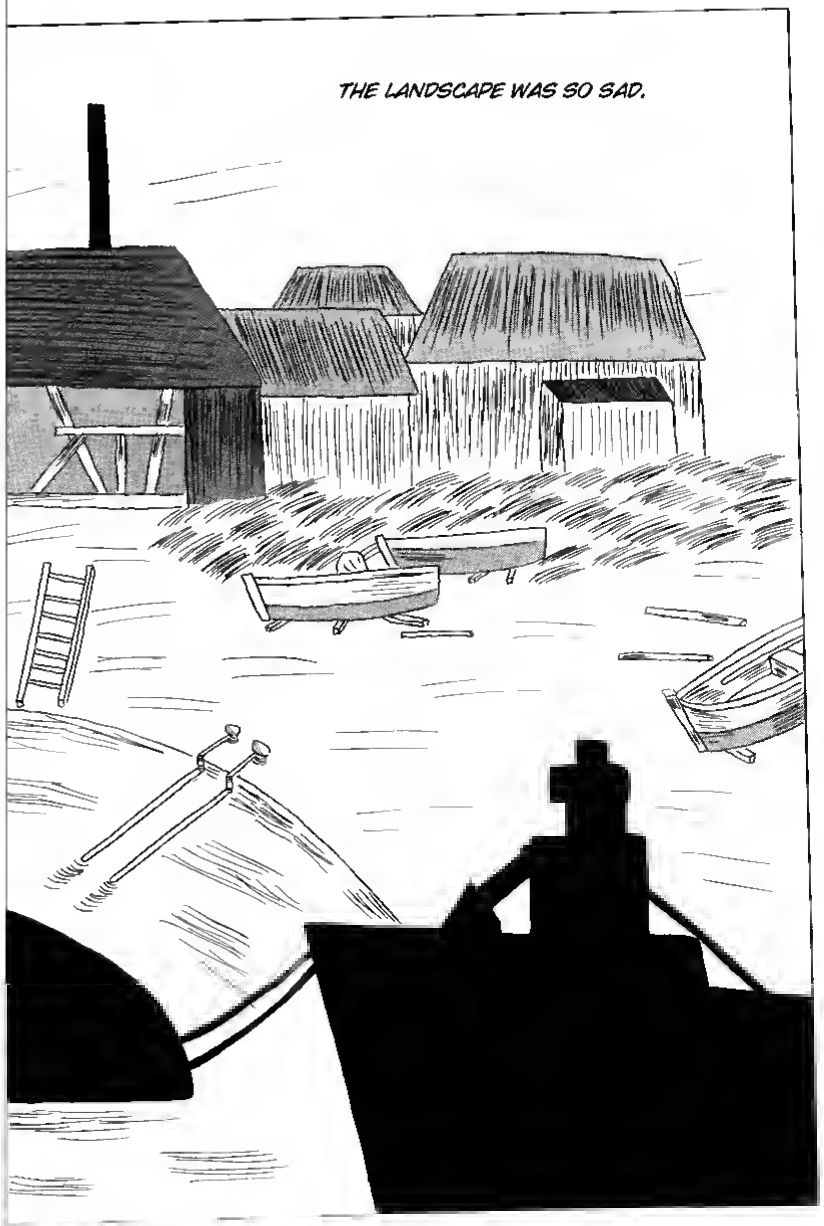
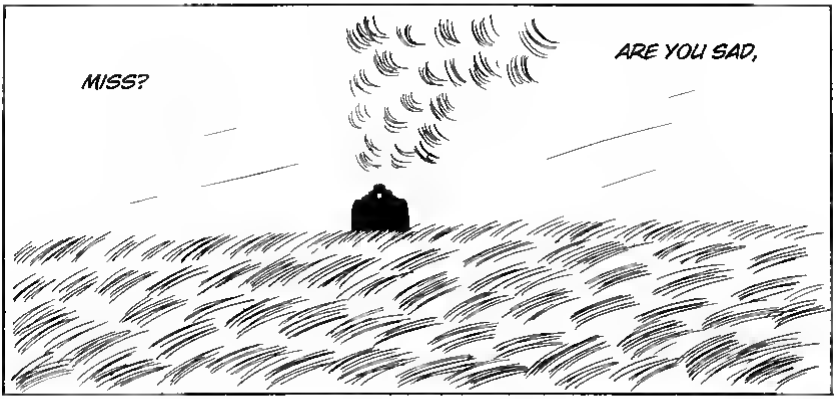
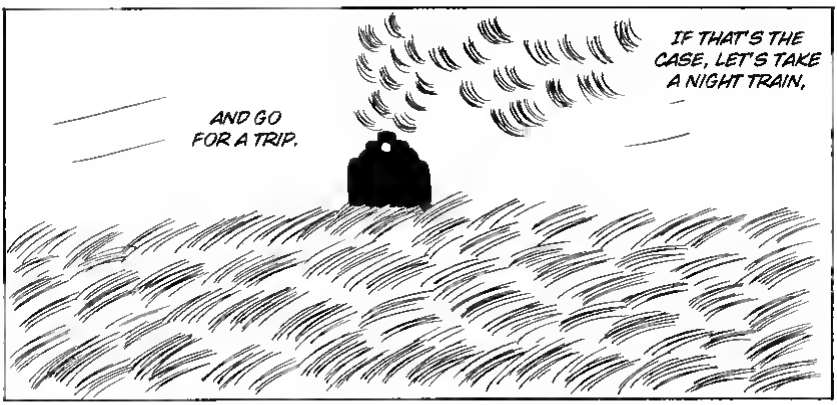
...THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID.

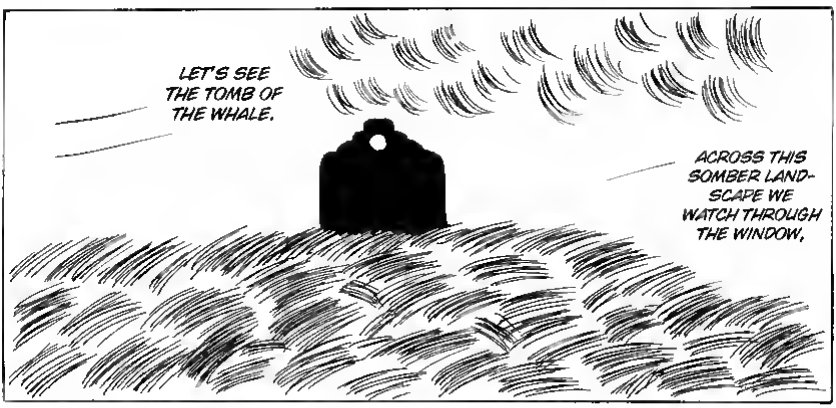

YOU KNOW, I DREAMED OF THE TOMB OF THE WHALE.


THE LANDSCAPE WAS SO SAD.

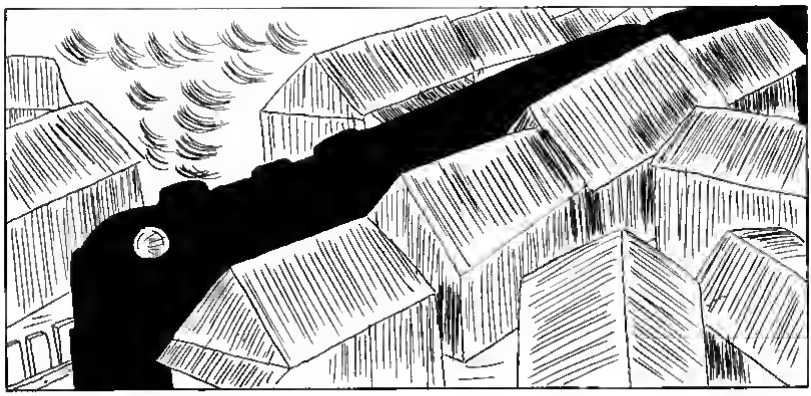
AND THESE "KOKIN KOKIN"
RESOUNDED IN THE FLUSH OF
THE SETTING SUN.


MISS?
ARE YOU SAD,


AND GO FOR A TRIP.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, LET'S TAKE A NIGHT TRAIN,


LET'S SEE THE TOMB OF THE WHALE.
ACROSS THIS SOMBER LANDSCAPE WE WATCH THROUGH THE WINDOW,

I'M FINE, THANKS. YOU CAN GO THERE BY YOURSELF.



I LEFT ALONE THE NEXT DAY. THE TRAIN, HEADING FOR THE CAPE, WENT THROUGH I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TUNNELS.

IN THE DARKNESS, SIMILAR TO THE BELLY OF A WHALE, I THOUGHT: "THE TOMB OF THE WHALE IS VERY CLOSE."

AND THE PIANO SAID "KOKIN, KOKIN".

終 1975.7.7